

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 1.5% (1,779) reside in the First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (338) of First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 73.7% of admissions from the First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District were male and 26.3% were female.
- Over 56.3% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 90.3% of admissions were white non-Latino, 2.5% were black non-Latino, 2.4% were Latino, 0.4% were Asians, and 4.4% were other racial categories.
- 61.6% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 16.1% were married, and 14.3% reported not to be married now.
- 28.9% of admissions had less than high school education, 44.6% completed high school, and 26.5% had more than high school education.
- 41.2% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 8.3% of those admitted were homeless.
- 12.8% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

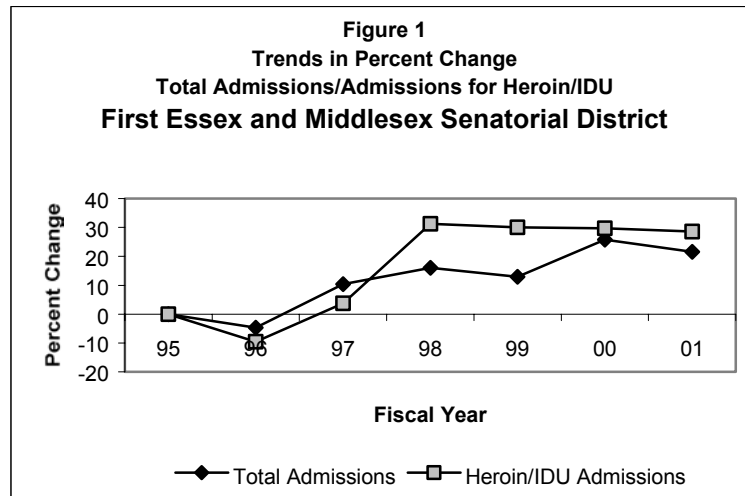
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,463	1,150	452	366	270	507	394
FY '96	1,395	1,143	471	337	217	484	331
FY '97	1,615	1,279	550	354	212	542	393
FY '98	1,697	1,268	504	348	199	686	496
FY '99	1,653	1,287	555	356	170	654	517
FY '00	1,841	1,411	544	379	144	667	501
FY '01	1,779	1,331	525	327	139	678	480

- Since FY 1995, residents of First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District reported a steady rise in both alcohol and heroin use by 16% and 34%, respectively.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting marijuana and cocaine use have remained fairly steady, while crack use has declined by 49%.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 22% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased 29%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District.

Table 2					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	48.9%	35.1%	7.7%	2.5%	0.9%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While alcohol and marijuana as a primary drug of use in your Senatorial District was higher than the State average, heroin, cocaine, and crack were lower within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000